



## 2006 Fiscal Report

### Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. NRCS has six mission goals that include high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

#### Vision

Productive Lands -  
Healthy Environment

#### Mission

Helping People Help the Land

*"I've always loved ranching and wildlife, and my wife was raised with a conservation ethic that instilled the understand of how important it is to protect the land and to look at an entire operation as a whole and not just one project at a time."*

**Landowner**

#### 2006 WHIP in Colorado

Applications received.....	53
Contracts approved.....	39
Funding Approved .....	\$709,462
Acres under contract.....	12,119

#### The Program

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages the creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of national, state, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their properties.

#### Program Objectives

- ◆ To improve habitat for declining or at-risk species to avoid further species being listed under the Endangered Species Act
- ◆ To improve habitat and increase the population of economically important species
- ◆ To reduce significant agriculture/wildlife conflicts

#### The Partnership

Landowners interested in enrolling into the WHIP Program enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop wildlife habitat and voluntarily limit future use of the land for a period of time, but retain private ownership.

#### The Assistance

- ◆ The WHIP program offers landowners up to 75 percent cost-share for wildlife habitat improvement projects.
- ◆ NRCS works with the participant to develop a wildlife habitat development plan.
- ◆ NRCS provides cost-share payments to landowners under these agreements that are usually 5 to 10 years in duration, depending upon the practices to be installed.
- ◆ NRCS also provides greater cost-share assistance to landowners who enter into agreements of 15 years or more for practices on essential plant and animal habitat.